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Mid-December Prices Received by Farmers

Preliminary indications of prices received by Idaho farmers for the month of December showed increases for malting barley, potatoes, all wheat, all beef cattle, cows, and calves. Prices decreased for all barley, feed barley, dry beans, steers and heifers, and milk. Prices remained unchanged for alfalfa hay.

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in December was 115, based on 1990-92=100, is two points (1.7 percent) below the November Index. Lower prices received for eggs, milk, lettuce and cattle more than offset higher commodity prices for corn, soybeans, broccoli, and broilers.

Prices Received by Farmers for Selected Commodities, Dec. 2002-Dec. 2003

Commodity	Unit	Idaho			United States			
		December 2002	November 2003	December 2003 ^{1/}	December 2002	November 2003	December 2003	
							Price ^{1/}	% Parity
CROPS:								
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	95.00	92.00	92.00	98.00	88.00	87.90	--
Barley, All	Bu	3.09	3.11	3.10	2.91	2.86	2.41	36
Feed	Bu	2.46	2.33	2.30	2.14	2.44	1.99	--
Malting	Bu	3.12	3.26	3.30	3.24	3.11	2.79	--
Dry Beans	Cwt	19.00	20.20	19.80	16.10	19.20	18.70	36
Potatoes ^{2/}	Cwt	5.10	4.30	4.45	6.67	5.35	5.50	39
Fresh ^{3/}	Cwt	5.40	4.50	--	8.65	6.39	--	--
Processing	Cwt	4.90	4.20	--	5.52	4.82	--	--
Wheat, All	Bu	3.89	3.41	3.44	4.06	3.59	3.63	37
LIVESTOCK & PRODUCTS:								
Beef Cattle ^{4/}	Cwt	62.20	79.90	82.80	70.40	93.70	92.70	57
Cows ^{5/}	Cwt	33.00	44.60	47.80	34.60	47.80	49.90	--
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	73.60	97.30	96.40	75.00	100.00	98.60	--
Calves	Cwt	91.00	108.00	109.00	95.30	112.00	113.00	51
Lambs	Cwt	83.00	94.00	--	87.20	99.20	--	--
Milk, All ^{6/}	Cwt	11.20	13.10	12.00	11.90	14.50	7/13.70	8/40
Fluid Grade ^{9/}	Cwt	11.20	13.10	--	11.90	14.50	7/13.70	--
Mfg. Grade	Cwt	10.80	12.90	--	10.70	13.80	7/12.70	--

1/ Mid-Month. 2/ Average price of potatoes sold for all uses, including table stock, processing, seed and livestock feed. 3/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock prices. 4/ "Cows" and "steers & heifers" combined. 5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter. 6/ Before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies. 7/ Fat test percent: all milk 3.79, fluid milk 3.79, mfg. grade 3.97. 8/ Seasonally adjusted price as percentage of parity price. 9/ Including milk diverted to manufacturing.

United States Price Index Summary Table

Index 1990-92 = 100	November 2002	December 2002	November 2003		December 2003 Preliminary
			Preliminary	Revised	
Prices Received	97	100	117	117	115
Prices Paid	125	125	130	130	130
Ratio ^{1/}	78	80	90	90	88

1/Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

Idaho Winter Wheat Seedings Decrease 5 Percent

Idaho's winter wheat seedings for the 2004 crop are estimated at 720,000 acres, down 5 percent from the 760,000 acres seeded for the 2003 crop. This acreage is the smallest area planted to winter wheat in Idaho since 1962.

Nationally, winter wheat planted for harvest in 2004 is estimated at 43.5 million acres. This is down 3 percent from last year. United States Hard Red Winter wheat totaled 31.0 million acres, Soft Red Winter wheat totaled 8.3 million acres, and White Winter wheat totaled 4.2 million acres.

December 1 Grain Stocks

Idaho's December 1, 2003 stocks of wheat stored in all positions totaled 48.9 million bushels, up 5 percent from last year's 46.3 million bushels. On-farm storage was estimated at 23.0 million bushels, up 28 percent from last year's 18.0 million bushels. Off-farm stocks, including stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals and processors was estimated at 25.9 million bushels, down 9 percent from December 1, 2002. Barley stocks in all positions totaled 30.0 million bushels, down 6 percent from a year ago. On-farm storage was estimated at 14.5 million bushels, 9 percent less than a year ago. Off-farm storage was estimated at 15.5 million bushels, down 4 percent from last year's 16.1 million bushels.

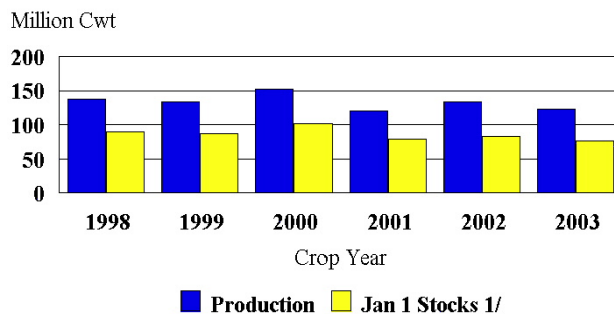
Nationally, wheat stored in all positions December 1, 2003, was estimated at 1.52 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year. On-farm stocks totaled 492 million bushels, up 28 percent from December 1, 2002. Off-farm stocks of 1.03 billion bushels are up 10 percent from a year ago. Barley stored in all positions totaled 198 million bushels, up 16 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 97.2 million bushels, up 17 percent from last December. Off-farm stocks accounted for 101 million bushels, up 16 percent from last year.

Idaho Potato Stocks Down

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers and processors in Idaho on January 1 totaled 76.5 million cwt, 6.0 million cwt less than on hand January 1, 2003. Disappearance, at 46.7 million cwt, is down from last year's 50.9 million cwt but up from 2001's 42.2 million cwt. Stocks in the 10 Southwest Counties totaled 4.30 million cwt, below last year's 6.00 million cwt. The Other Counties' stocks, at 72.2 million cwt, was 4.30 million cwt less than the amount stored on January 1, 2003.

The 15 major potato States held 234 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 58 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, up 1 percentage point from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 82 percent russet, with more round whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance of 170 million cwt from the start of harvest to January 1, is down 3 percent from the same period last year but 5 percent above two years ago.

Idaho Potato Stocks - January 1 Production vs Stocks



1/ Following Year
Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service

Fall Potatoes: Production & Stocks 1998-2003 Idaho & 15 Fall States

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS						
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR					
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	JUN 1
IDAHO	1,000 Cwt.							
1998	138,000	99,500	89,000	77,500	66,000	52,000	37,000	23,000
1999	133,330	96,000	86,000	76,500	65,000	50,000	36,000	21,000
2000	152,320	111,000	101,000	87,500	76,500	61,500	47,000	26,500
2001	120,200	87,500	78,000	68,000	58,000	45,000	32,500	18,500
2002	133,385	92,000	82,500	72,500	62,000	49,000	34,500	21,000
2003	123,180	86,000	76,500					
15 STATES								
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,821	264,585	231,690	199,320	165,310	125,870	82,940	45,980
2003	403,946	267,860	233,880					

Dry Bean Production Down 21 Percent

Idaho's 2003 dry edible bean production is expected to total 1.50 million cwt, down 21 percent from last year's production of 1.91 million cwt. Planted acreage of 75,000 and harvested acreage of 73,000 are down from last year's 95,000 acres planted and 93,000 acres harvested. Average yield is expected to be 2,050 pounds per acre, unchanged from last year.

Pinto production declined from last year, but continues to account for the largest portion of the state's crop with 43.4 percent of Idaho's production. Pink production had the largest increase from the 2002 crop, accounting for 16.3 percent of the total. Small red production accounted for 13.4 percent of production. Garbanzo (chickpea) production accounted for 6.5 percent, and continues to decline from the high production levels achieved during 2000 and 2001. The majority of garbanzo production was the large type, also known as kabuli. Great northern production increased from last year to account for 5.3 percent of Idaho's production. Navy production declined to 4.7 percent of production. Small white production increased slightly to account for 2.6 percent of production. Black turtle and cranberry production declined from last year to account for 1.7 percent and 1.5 percent of production,

respectively. Light red kidneys, dark red kidneys, and other classes made up the remaining dry edible bean production in Idaho.

Of the 12 classes of dry edible beans estimated for Idaho during 2003, 4 classes posted production gains and 8 classes posted production losses.

Nationally, production of dry edible beans is estimated at 22.5 million cwt for 2003, down 1 percent from the December forecast and 25 percent below last year. Harvested area is forecast at 1.35 million acres, 1 percent below the last forecast and down 22 percent from 2002. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,672 pounds per acre, a decrease of 6 pounds from the December forecast and 64 pounds below a year ago. Production is below a year ago in 12 of the 18 producing States. Most notable is a 50 percent production decrease in Michigan where planted acres are the lowest on record. Production is down from a year ago for black, small white, navy, garbanzo, cranberry, baby lima, dark red kidney, pinto, light red kidney, and small red. Production increased from last year for great northern, blackeye, large lima, and pink.

All Dry Beans Acreage, Yield, and Production - Selected States and U. S., 2002 and 2003 ^{1/}

State	Planted		Harvested		Yield ^{2/}		Production ^{2/}	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>				<i>Pounds</i>		<i>1,000 cwt</i>	
California	92.0	77.0	89.0	75.0	1,980	1,870	1,762	1,403
Colorado	92.0	80.0	70.0	73.0	2,170	1,600	1,519	1,168
Idaho	95.0	75.0	93.0	73.0	2,050	2,050	1,907	1,497
Michigan	270.0	170.0	265.0	165.0	1,850	1,500	4,903	2,475
Minnesota	170.0	115.0	150.0	110.0	1,650	1,700	2,475	1,870
Nebraska	185.0	155.0	165.0	148.0	2,100	2,130	3,465	3,151
North Dakota	790.0	540.0	690.0	520.0	1,540	1,500	10,626	7,800
Oregon	9.8	7.0	9.1	6.0	1,730	1,650	157	99
Washington	41.0	27.5	41.0	27.5	2,000	1,910	820	525
U.S. Total	1,922.1	1,406.1	1,726.9	1,346.9	1,736	1,672	29,974	22,515

1/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 2/ Clean basis.

U.S. Dairy Products November 2003 Highlights

Total Cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) was 718 million pounds, 1.0 percent below November 2002 and 3.1 percent below October 2003.

American Type Cheese production totaled 294 million pounds 0.3 percent below November 2002 and 3.6 percent below October 2003.

Butter production was 88.1 million pounds in November, 15.2 percent below November 2002 and 9.2 percent below October 2003.

Frozen Desserts: (Comparisons with November 2002)

Ice cream

Regular (hard) ---58.1 million gallons, up 1.3 percent.

Lowfat (total) --- 24.7 million gallons, up 10.3 percent.

Nonfat (hard) --- 1.47 million gallons, up 1.3 percent.

Sherbet (hard) --- 3.44 million gallons, up 17.3 percent.

Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 4.29 million gallons, down 13.2 percent.

Nonfat dry milk for human food: (compared with November 2002)--- 102 million pounds, up 3.3 percent.

U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2003, was 60.0 million head. This was 1 percent above December 1, 2002, but slightly below September 1, 2003. Breeding inventory, at 5.97 million head, was down 1 percent from December 1, 2002, but 1 percent above last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was 1 percent above last year, but slightly below last quarter.

The September - November 2003 U.S. pig crop, at 25.3 million head, was 2 percent more than 2002, but 1 percent below 2001. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, 1 percent above last year. The average pigs saved per litter was 8.93 for the September - November period, compared to 8.83 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.40 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

Hog And Pig Numbers By Class December 1, 2002-03, Selected States ^{1/}

State	Breeding			Market			Total		
	2002	2003		2002	2003		2002	2003	
		Number	As % Of 2002		Number	As % Of 2002		Number	As % Of 2002
	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent	1,000 Head		Percent
Illinois	430	410	95	3,720	3,540	95	4,150	3,950	95
Indiana	330	300	91	2,870	2,800	98	3,200	3,100	97
Iowa	1,050	1,060	101	14,550	14,740	101	15,600	15,800	101
Kansas	160	160	100	1,370	1,470	107	1,530	1,630	107
Minnesota	580	600	103	5,420	5,800	107	6,000	6,400	107
Missouri	360	340	94	2,590	2,610	101	2,950	2,950	100
Nebraska	365	370	101	2,585	2,530	98	2,950	2,900	98
N. Carolina	1,000	1,000	100	8,700	8,900	102	9,700	9,900	102
Ohio	155	160	103	1,285	1,360	106	1,440	1,520	106
Oklahoma	330	360	109	2,010	1,980	99	2,340	2,340	100
TOTAL 10 STATES	4,760	4,760	100	45,100	45,730	101	49,860	50,490	101
OTHER STATES									
Idaho	3	4	133	19	22	116	22	26	118
Montana	21	18	86	164	152	93	185	170	92
Oregon	6	6	100	25	21	84	31	27	87
Utah	90	91	101	580	569	98	670	660	99
Washington	4	4	100	20	20	100	24	24	100
Wyoming	20	19	95	95	105	111	115	124	108
UNITED STATES	6,012	5,966	99	53,501	54,074	101	59,513	60,040	101

^{1/} May not add due to rounding.